(e) The NTPC are pursuing the recovery of their dues with the State Electricity Boards and Undertakings concerned. The matter is also being followed up with the State Governments etc. concerned who have been advised to expedite liquidation of the arrears and to open Letters of Credit for payment of the dues.

Import of L.P.G.

3317. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing LPG and if so, since when;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the import of LPG during the current financial year and to what extent;

(c) what is the cost of import bill for LPG during the last three years (yearwise); and ,

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) The import of LPG was started in the year 1979-80.

(b) to (d) The details regarding the import of LPG during last three years is indicated below:

Qty. '000 tonnes

Value : Rs./lakhs

	Quantity	Value
1985-86 . . .	32	1090
1986-87 . . .	22	409
1987-88 (Provisional) . .	152	4501

Power consumption by agricultural sector

3318. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of energy is utilised by the agricultural sector in the country at present; and

(b) what are the proposals to enhance the share of power consumption in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) According to the thirteenth power survey committee report, the percentage of energy utilised by the agricultural sector during 1987-88 was estimated to be 18.12 per cent.

(b) The supply of power to various categories of consumers is decided by the State authorities keeping in view the overall demand for power and its availability. The states have been advised from time to time to give priority to the supply of power to the agricultural sector.

Request of Punjab State Electricity Board for loan

3319. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has received a request from Punjab State Electricity Board for loan for improvement of the distribution system in urban areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation had received proposals from the Punjab State Electricity Board for financial assistance for improving the distribution system in Amritsar, Batala, Ludhiana and Pathankot.

(c) After preliminary examination, Punjab State Electricity Board were advised to revise these schemes. Except for Amritsar, the other revised schemes are still to be received from PSEB.

Proposal to lay Gas pipeline in the southern region

3320. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to utilise the recently struck oil and natural gas in the Krishna Godavari Southern region;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Oil produced from K-G Basin (onshore) is being sent to HPCL Refinery at Vizag. Gas from K-G Basin is being supplied to two consumers. Apart from this, gas has been committed to APSEB and six other consumers; the total commitment is 0.5 MMCMD.

Purchase of surplus power from Nepal

3321. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to purchase about 200 M.W. of surplus power from Nepal in the near future:

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions under which such deals have been finalised; and

(c) what are the reasons for purchasing power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Nepal has offered to supply power to India from a medium size project which they propose to set up. India has indicated its willingness to consider purchase of such surplus from Nepal.

(b) The terms and conditions for purchase of such power have not been discussed with Nepal.

(c) Surplus power from Nepal can help reduce power shortage in the Northern Region.

Clearance of Bairabi Hydel Power Project in Mizoram

3322. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the Bairabi Hydel Power Project in Mizoram;

(b) whether the Central Electricity Authority have since cleared the Project;

(c) if so, when and if not, by when the Project is likely to be cleared;

(d) what is the estimated cost of the Project; and

(e) by when the Project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (e) The updated cost estimates of Bairabi (Dhaleshwari) Hydroelectric Project amounting to Rs. 304.78 crores have been submitted by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance, in May, 1988. In view of the other benefits likely to accrue from the project, the project is proposed to be treated as a multi-purpose project and the project cost is proposed to be apportioned amongst various sectors. The Central Water Commission and the Central Electricity Authority have undertaken the techno-economic appraisal of the project on this basis. The project is expected to be completed in seven years after the investment decision.